



# BIOGRAPHY

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

**354th Fighter Wing Public Affairs, 354 Broadway Ave Unit 15A, Eielson AFB AK 99702-1895**  
Comm: (907) 377-2116; DSN: (317) 377-2116; Fax: 377-1412

### COLONEL JAMES C. HORTON

Colonel James C. Horton is the vice commander of the 354th Fighter Wing, Eielson AFB, Alaska. The 354 FW trains and provides A/OA-10s, F-16C, tactical air control and combat support forces to combatant commanders any time, any place, in support of U.S. national security objectives. The 354 FW hosts Pacific Air Forces' premier national and multinational large force training exercise, Cope Thunder, held up to four times annually. As the Air Force's most northern operational wing, the 354 FW is also the home of Air Education and Training Command's Arctic Survival School.

Colonel Horton entered the Air Force in 1983 after graduating from the Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo. He has served as an instructor in the T-38 and RF-4 as well as an evaluator pilot in the F-16. He has also served as an aide and instructor pilot for the 9th AF/CC and completed a staff tour in NATO as the chief of current operations, Sixth Allied Tactical Air Forces, Izmir, Turkey. Prior to assuming his duties at Eielson, he was the Senior Military Assistant to the Under Secretary of the Air Force/Director of the National Reconnaissance Office. He is a command pilot and has 4000 flying hours in the T-38, RF-4 and F-16 as well as 285 combat flying hours.



### EDUCATION

- 1983 Bachelor of Science degree in Financial Management, USAF Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- 1987 Squadron Officer School (residence), Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 1991 Master of Arts degree in Business Administration, Golden Gate University, San Francisco, Calif.
- 1997 Air Command and Staff College (residence), Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 1998 Armed Forces Staff College (residence), Norfolk, Va.
- 2004 Air War College (residence), Maxwell AFB, Ala.

### ASSIGNMENTS

1. August 1983 - November 1984, student pilot, Reese AFB, Texas
2. November 1984 - June 1988, T-38 instructor pilot, Reese AFB, Texas
3. June 1988 - December 1988, RF-4 student, Bergstrom AFB, Texas
4. December 1988 - December 1989, squadron training officer and RF-4C pilot, 363rd Tactical Fighter Wing, Shaw AFB, S.C.
5. December 1989 - March 1991, chief, squadron standards and evaluation, RF-4C instructor pilot, 26th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, Zweibrücken AB, Germany
6. March 1991 - January 1992, wing weapons and tactics officer and F-4E pilot, George AFB, Calif.
7. January 1992 - April 1995, assistant operations officer and flight commander, 33rd Fighter Squadron and 78th Fighter Squadron, Shaw AFB, S.C.
8. April 1995 - July 1996, aide to the commander, 9th Air Force/United States Central Command Air Forces, Shaw AFB, S.C.
9. July 1996 - June 1997, student, Air Command and Staff College, Air University, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
10. July 1997 - June 1999, chief of current operations, Sixth Allied Tactical Air Forces, Izmir, Turkey (NATO)
11. June 1999 - September 1999, F-16 re-qualification, Luke AFB, Ariz.

12. September 1999 - June 2003, deputy commander, 20th Operations Group; operations officer and commander, 79th Fighter Squadron; current operations flight commander, 20th Operations Support Squadron, Shaw AFB, S.C.
13. June 2003 - June 2004, student, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
14. June 2004 - June 2005, senior military assistant to the Undersecretary of the Air Force/director of the National Reconnaissance Office, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
15. July 2005 - present, vice commander, 354th Fighter Wing, Eielson AFB, Alaska.

### **FLIGHT INFORMATION**

Rating: Command Pilot  
Flight hours: 4000  
Aircraft flown: T-38, RF-4, F-16

### **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Defense Meritorious Service Medal  
Meritorious Service Medal  
Air Medal  
Aerial Achievement Medal  
Air Force Commendation Medal  
Air Force Achievement Medal  
Humanitarian Service Medal  
National Defense Service Medal  
Southwest Asia Service Medal  
Global War On Terrorism Medal

### **OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS**

Distinguished Graduate, RF-4 Initial training, Bergstrom AFB, Texas, 1988  
Top Air Force Pilot in Reconnaissance Air Meet, 1990  
General Jerome O'Malley Award for Best Reconnaissance Pilot in USAF, 1990  
Daedalion Award as Top Pilot for South Carolina, 1994  
Distinguished Graduate, Air Command and Staff College, 1997

### **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

Second Lieutenant	June 1983
First Lieutenant	June 1985
Captain	June 1987
Major	May 1995
Lieutenant Colonel	June 1999
Colonel	July 2004

*(Current as of July 2005)*